

A BILL for Establishing the Trade to Africa Free and Open to all Her Majesty's Subjects of Great Britain, and the Plantations.



HEREAS the late Act of Parliament for settling the Trade to *Africa*, made in the Ninth and Tenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *William* the Third, is determined.

AND WHEREAS Monopolies in Trade have been found by Experience to be great Discouragements to Industry, Injurious to the Liberty and Freedom of Her Majesty's Subjects of *Great Britain*, and Destructive to the true Interest thereof; as well in respect to the general Navigation, as to the Woollen and other Manufactures of this Kingdom.

AND WHEREAS the Trade to *Africa* is very advantageous to *Great Britain*, and necessary to the Plantations thereunto belonging, and ought to be free and open to all Her Majesty's Subjects, under such proper Regulations as shall subject the said Trade to Duties for maintaining Forts and Settlements on the Coast of *Africa*.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, and it is hereby ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be Lawful to and for all and every the Subjects of *Great Britain*, and the Plantations thereunto belonging, to trade to any Part or Place in *Africa*, between *Cape Blanco* and the *Cape of Good Hope*, in or with such Goods, and in such Quantity or Quantities, as

AND, for the Purposes aforesaid, BE IT ENACTED, That Her Majesty, her Heirs or Successors, by Charter under the Great Seal of *Great Britain*, may incorporate

and Persons, Subjects of *Great Britain* and the Plantations thereunto belonging, who shall trade to any Parts or Places in *Africa*, between *Cape Blanco* and the *Cape of Good Hope*, by such Name as

and under such Regulations and Provisions, as shall be deemed proper for the better Carrying on the said Trade: But so as such Corporation shall not be thereby Impowered to Trade in One Joint-Stock, exclusive of any of Her Majesty's Subjects.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any of Her Majesty's Subjects of *Great Britain*, and the Plantations, who shall at any time hereafter desire to be admitted a Member or Members of the said Corporation, he or they respectively paying for such his or their Admission, the Sum of Every Person may become a Member of such Corporation; unto the Governour and Company to be hereby Established in pursuance of her Majesty's Charter, shall become a Member or Members of the said Corporation, and shall have the Liberty of Trading within the Limits aforesaid, in such manner as he or they shall think fit; subject nevertheless to the Rules to be appointed by the said Charter.

AND for the better Preserving and Maintaining such Forts or Settlements as have at any time been acquired by any other Corporation under the Great Seal of *England*, or by any of Her Majesty's Subjects upon the Coast of *Africa*, or hereafter shall be acquired by the Corporation hereby intended to be erected, or by any other of the Subjects of *Great Britain*: BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,

by

by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the Day of
all Goods and Merchandizes which shall be Ex-
ported from *Great Britain*, and the Plantations, to any Parts or Places on the Coast
of *Africa*, between *Cape Blanco* and the *Cape of Good Hope*, shall upon the Exporta-
tion thereof be subject to a Duty of *ad*
valorem, to be paid on all Goods so Exported (Provisions excepted) to such Per-
son or Persons, for such Purposes, and under such Regulations and Restrictions,
as Her Majesty, her Heirs or Successors, in and by such intended Charter of
Incorporation, shall judge meet and convenient to and for the Purposes afore-
said.

And to the Intent that there be an equal Freedom of Trade to all Her Maje-
sty's Subjects, BE IT ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That any
Body Politick or Corporate Freedom of
Trade to *Africa* within the Limits aforesaid, as any other Member of the Company
hereby Established may or can have. And that any such Body Politick or Corpo-
rate may Depute under their Common Seal their

Person, who on paying of
shall be admitted a Member of the Company hereby Established, and may Trade
and Act for and on behalf of such Body Politick or Corporate, in the same man-
ner as any other Member of the said Company may or can lawfully do. And
that no other Member or Members of such Body Politick or Corporate, than
so appointed, shall be obliged to make him or them-
selves free, or become a Member or Members of the Company hereby established
in respect thereof.

AND BE IT ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Gover-
nour, Officer (or other Person) of any of the *British* Forts or Settlements on the
Coast of *Africa*, shall at any time hereafter Obstruct or Hinder any Person or
Persons, their Ships or Vessels, being free of the said Corporation hereby establi-
shed, from Trading with the Natives in *Africa*, or otherwise molest them in their
Trade; such Governour, Officer, or other Persons so offending pay to
the Person or Persons so Obstructed, Hindred or Molested.
which such Person or Persons so Obstructed, Hindred or Molested, shall make
appear he or they have suffered or sustained by such Hinderance or Obstruction;
to be recovered in any of her Majesty's Courts of *Westminster*, or in any of the
Courts of the *British* Plantations in *America*, wherein no *Essoign*, Wager of Law,
Privilege or Protection, or more than one Imparance, shall be allowed.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all and every Person or Per-
sons, who shall at any time after the
attempt to Raise or Cultivate any Sugar-Canes, Tobacco, or other
Commodities produced in the *British* Plantations in *America*, or be concerned or
join with any of the Natives of the Coast of *Africa*, or others, so doing, within
the Limits aforesaid; every such Person or Persons shall

for every Rod
or Pole of Ground, which he or they shall Plant, or cause to be Planted, or be
concerned as aforesaid in planting any Sugar-Canes, Tobacco, or other Com-
modities produced in the *British* Plantations in *America*:
Part thereof to such Person who shall inform and sue for the same, in any of the
Courts in *Westminster*; and the other thereof to the Use
of the Corporation hereby Established.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That
from and after the no Gover-
nour, or Deputy-Governour, of any of Her Majesty's Plantations, or Colonies in
America, or any of Her Majesty's Judges in any Court there for the time being,
or any other Person or Persons, for the Use or on Behalf of such Governour, or
Deputy-Governour, or Judges, shall be a Factor or Factors, Agent or Agents,
for any Person or Persons, for Sale or Disposal of any Negroes. And that every
Person or Persons offending herein shall

to the Uses aforesaid; to be Recovered in any of Her Majesty's
Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt, Bill, Complaint, or Informa-
tion, wherein no *Essoign*, Protection, or Privilege, or Wager of Law, or any
more than one Imparance shall be allowed.

For maintain-
ing the Settle-
ments in Afri-
ca, a Duty to
be laid upon
Exports.

Any Body Po-
litick or Cor-
porate may
Trade to A-
frica.

No Governour
or other Per-
son in the
Settlements in
Africa to hin-
der any from
Trading.

No Person to
Plant Sugar-
Canes, Tobac-
co, or other
Plantation-
Goods in A-
frica.

No Governour
or Judge in
the Plantati-
ons to be a
Factor for
selling Ne-
groes.

71-59
Bow Windows
Aug. 1970

bDB
G7875
1713
1

A
B I L L

For Establishing the Trade to
Africa Free and Open to
all Her Majesty's Subjects of
Great Britain, and the Plan-
tations.

(2)